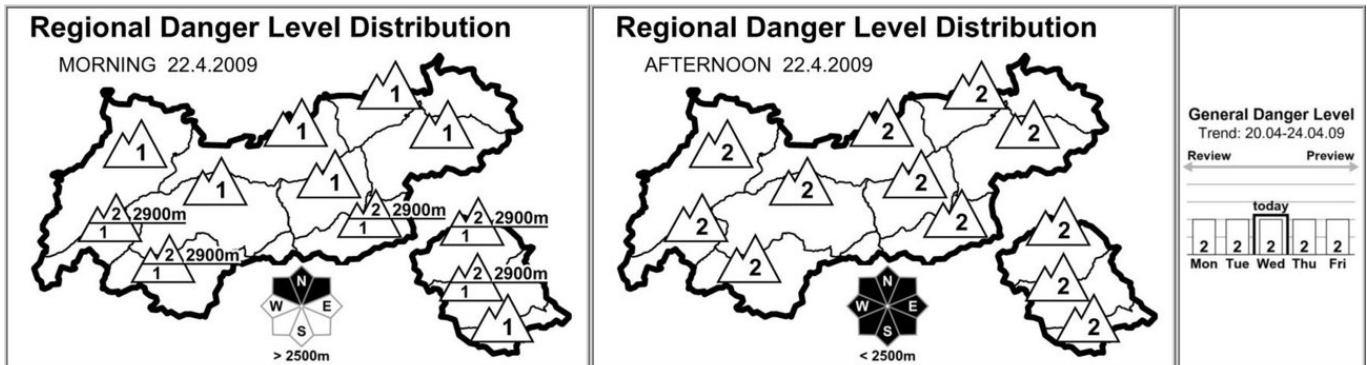


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 22.04.2009, at 07:30



FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS IN EARLY MORNING - SLIGHTLY INCREASING DANGERS OVER THE DAY

AVALANCHE DANGER

During the early morning hours, favourable backcountry touring conditions prevail far and wide, with generally low avalanche danger; along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2900 m the danger is moderate. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in recently formed snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions in steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing terrain adjacent to ridge lines, which are easy to recognise. In addition, isolated slab avalanches on very steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes above 2500 m in transitions from little to lots of snow can be triggered by large additional loading. There is also a daytime warming cycle which will increase avalanche danger to "moderate" over the day. As the snowpack becomes increasingly wet, even one backcountry skier or freerider can release wet slides which could become quite large. Isolated full depth snowslides are also possible on steep hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

In southern regions the new snow of recent days has settled well. The snowpack surface consolidated adequately overnight and will soften up during the day up to intermediate altitudes, and more generally on sunny slopes. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches can be found above 2500 m: the faceted layer from mid-January is riddled with melted snow; and above about 2900 m, the snowdrifted surface hoar with isolated, very thin ice sheets near the surface also provides a hazard.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: the high pressure zone is weakening, on Thursday a small low will bring wet, cool air to the Alps. On the weekend, conditions will again improve. Mountain weather today: good visibility, convective cloud during the afternoon. Towards evening, fog will move into the northern flank of the Alps; during the night, conditions will deteriorate and temperatures recede. The freezing level will drop to 1400 m by dawn in North Tyrol. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 to plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Despite the anticipated new snow, the avalanche situation will not change markedly.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe